

REMARKS

Applicants add new method claim 17 directed to the features of the claimed invention. Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1, 8, and 10 for clarification, and amend claim 16 to incorporate features of claim 1. Applicants also amend claims 1-16 to clarify their preambles. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

The Examiner objected to claims 8 and 10 for apparent informalities. Applicants amend claims 8 and 10 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, and request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

In particular, the Examiner objected to the claim language of "performing...processing of a...signal frame to [a] main signal processing unit" for being unclear as to how a signal can be performed on a signal frame to a structure. Applicants amend claim 1 to more clearly recite "a main signal signaling processing section for performing signaling a main signal frame to said main signal processing unit." (Emphasis added) Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112, ¶ 2 rejection of claim 1, and claims 2-15 dependent therefrom.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by International Application Publication No. WO 98/25436 to Lovelace et al. Applicants amend claim 16 to incorporate the features of claim 1, and respectfully submit that claim 16 is, therefore, patentable over Lovelace et al.

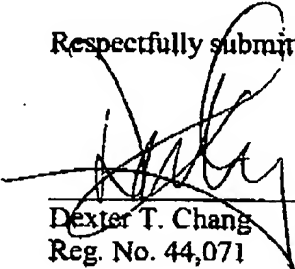
The above statements on the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional references made of record, but not applied, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether these references are considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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